

Commentary on the book of Revelation

by William Smee
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Introduction

When we study the book of Revelation, it is imperative that we study the book of Daniel first. The reason is because Daniel received five revelations of four kingdoms, which were to come to pass before the kingdom of God would reign on earth. In Daniel chapter 2, he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great image with a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, torso of brass, and thighs and legs of iron, and feet in part of iron and in part of clay. This was interpreted to him as four kingdoms, which would reign on earth before a stone would come and smash them to pieces, and the God of heaven will set up an everlasting kingdom. Babylon was the head of gold.

In Daniel chapter 7, in the first year of Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, Daniel had a vision of four beasts, a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a terrible beast. This was again a vision of four kingdoms that were to reign on earth. The lion was Babylon, and the identity of the bear and the leopard and the terrible beast were not made known to Daniel in this vision.

In Daniel chapter 8, in the third year of Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, Daniel had another vision of a ram and a he goat, as we read in **Daniel 8 (KJV):3** Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last. 4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great. 5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

The ram represented Media and Persia, and the he goat was Greece, as we read in **Daniel 8 (KJV):20** The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

In Daniel chapter 5, Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, saw the "fingers of a man's hand" write something on the wall while he was celebrating with a "thousand of his lords" using "the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem".

Daniel interpreted the writing, and told king Belshazzar that his time was up. That night he was slain, and the Medes and the Persians took the kingdom.

In Daniel chapter 9, 70 weeks are determined for Israel, and 69 weeks came to pass with the crucifixion of Messiah, as we read in **Daniel 9 (KJV):24** Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

There is one more week of the 70 determined for Israel, and in verse 26 the "prince that shall come" is the Antichrist who will make a covenant with Israel in verse 27 for the last week of the 70, but in the "midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease", and he will become the "abomination of desolation" spoke of by Jesus in **Matthew 24 (KJV):15** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Then in Daniel chapters 10 to 12, Daniel had his final vision. All of the kings in the first 20 verses of chapter 11 come to an end. The king in verses 21 to 45 of chapter 11 has no end until verse 45, the end of the chapter. This king is the Antichrist who is to come. He is the one that was prophesied in Daniel 9 who would, in the middle of the week, "cause the sacrifice and

the oblation to cease”, and so we read in **Daniel 11 (KJV):30** For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. 31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

That he will be the “abomination of desolation” is clear, as we read in **Daniel 11 (KJV):36** And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. 37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

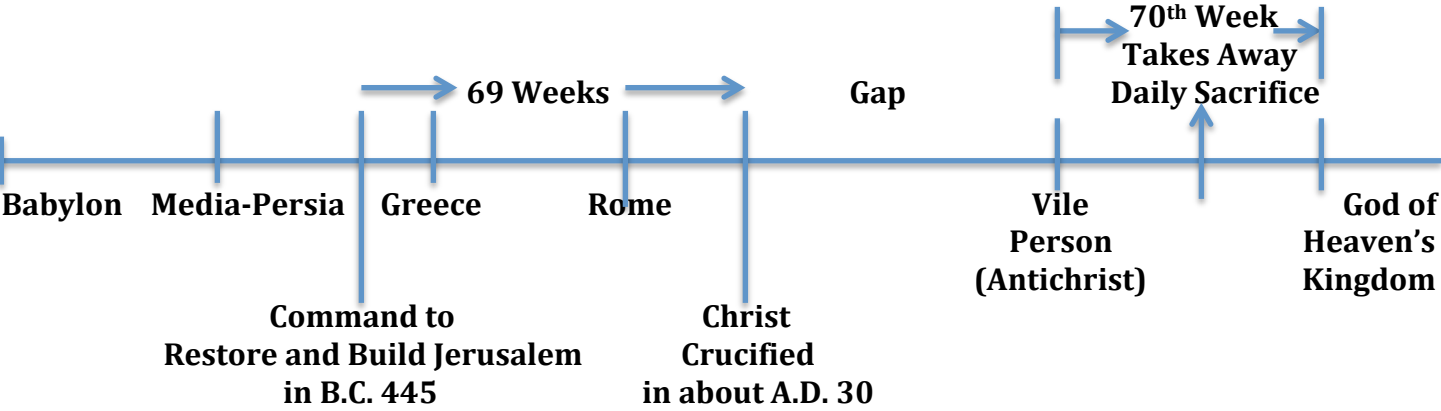
And this will be a time of trouble like never before, as we read in **Daniel 12 (KJV):1** And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Note: “The Roman authorities exiled John to Patmos due to his testimony of Jesus Christ and his active preaching of the Christian faith. During Emperor Domitian's reign (81–96 AD), Christians faced persecution for refusing to worship the emperor as a deity. John's influential role in the early Christian community made him a target, leading to his banishment to this remote island.

John's exile to Patmos is believed to have occurred around 95 AD, during the final years of Domitian's reign. Roman officials transported him to the island as a form of punishment for his religious activities. Patmos, located in the Aegean Sea, served as a place of exile for political and religious dissidents.”

<https://ertungaecir.com/blog/john-in-patmos/#:~:text=John's%20exile%20to%20Patmos%20is,punishment%20for%20his%20religious%20activities.>

Summary of Daniel’s Visions



We now begin our study of the book of Revelation.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Revelation 1

Revelation 1 (KJV):1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Commentary: God gave Jesus Christ a revelation to share with His servants by His servant, the apostle John. In verse 1, the word “Revelation” in the Greek is ἀποκάλυψις (pronounced ap-ok-al'-oop-sis); from G601; disclosure:—appearing, coming, lighten, manifestation, be revealed, revelation. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G602**

And this Greek word is derived from ἀποκαλύπτω (pronounced ap-ok-al'-oop'-to); from G575 and G2572; to take off the cover, i.e. disclose:—reveal. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G601**

Again in verse 1, the word “signified” in the Greek is σημαίνω (pronounced say-mah'-ee-no); from σῆμα (pronounced say-ma) (a mark; of uncertain derivation); to indicate:—signify. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G601**

The apostle John was “his servant”, and one of the closest disciples to Jesus. So Jesus “signed it by His angel unto His servant John”.

In verse 2, the words “bare record” are a translation of the Greek word μαρτυρέω (pronounced mar-too-reh'-o); from G3144; to be a witness, i.e. testify (literally or figuratively):—charge, give (evidence), bear record, have (obtain, of) good (honest) report, be well reported of, testify, give (have) testimony, (be, bear, give, obtain) witness. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G3140**

John was bearing witness to the “word of God”, that is, to the way, the truth, and the life, who is Jesus.

In verse 3 the word “prophecy” in the Greek is προφητεία (pronounced prof-ay-ti'-ah); from G4396 (“prophecy”); prediction (scriptural or other):—prophecy, prophesying. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G4394**

And this Greek word is derived from προφήτης (pronounced prof-ay'-tace); from a compound of G4253 and G5346; a foreteller (“prophet”); by analogy, an inspired speaker; by extension, a poet:—prophet. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G4396**

A prophecy is something that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. In verse 1, it was “signified” by the Holy Spirit through “his angel unto his servant John”. The Greek word translated “signified” is also found in **John 12 (KJV):**32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

Jesus foretold His death, that is, that He would be lifted up on a cross. That He did so bears witness to the fact that He was telling the truth. And John knew that what he was being shown by the Lord through the angel was true, because He “sent and signified it by his angel” to His “servant John”.

Again in verse 3, the words “at hand” in the Greek are a translation of ἐγγύς (pronounced eng-goos'); from a primary verb ἄγχω (pronounced árchō) (to squeeze or throttle; akin to the base of G43); near (literally or figuratively, of place or time):—from, at hand, near, nigh (at hand, unto), ready. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G1451**

The Church needed to pay attention to this prophecy then, and we in the Church today also need to pay attention to this prophecy now.

The Message from Jesus Christ

Revelation 1 (KJV):4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Commentary: In verse 4, the **King James Version** capitalizes the word “Spirits”. But there is one Holy Spirit, as we read in **Ephesians 2 (KJV):**18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

And in **Ephesians 4 (KJV):**4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

The word “Spirits” in verse 4 refers to angels, as we read in **Psalms 104 (KJV):**4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

And we will read in **Revelation 4 (KJV):**5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

In verse 5, the word “witness” in the Greek is **μάρτυς** (pronounced mar'-toos; of uncertain affinity; a witness (literally (judicially) or figuratively (genitive case)); by analogy, a "martyr":—martyr, record, witness. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G3144**

And also in verse 5, the words “first begotten” are a translation of the Greek word **πρωτότοκος** (pronounced pro-tot-ok'-os; from G4413 and the alternate of G5088; first-born (usually as noun, literally or figuratively):—first begotten(-born). **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G4416**

And this Greek word is derived from two Greek words. The first is **πρῶτος** (pronounced pro'-tos; contracted superlative of G4253; foremost (in time, place, order or importance):—before, beginning, best, chief(-est), first (of all), former. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G4413**

And the second is **τίκτω** (pronounced tik'-to; a strengthened form of a primary **τέκω** (pronounced tek'-o (which is used only as alternate in certain tenses)); to produce (from seed, as a mother, a plant, the earth, etc.), literally or figuratively:—bear, be born, bring forth, be delivered, be in travail. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G5088**

And so we read in **Colossians 1 (KJV):**17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

The same Greek word is used in verse 18, and is translated as “firstborn”. We must remember that Jesus was not spiritually dead. So He was not the first to be made spiritually alive, but He was the first to be resurrected. And He holds the place of the “first begotten” or “firstborn from the dead” because He was before us, and we are in Him by faith.

The whole human race is spiritually dead because of Adam's sin. But when one believes in the Christ, they pass from death to life, as we read in **John 5 (KJV):**24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

This “everlasting life” is in our spirit when we are born of the Spirit, as we read in **John 3 (KJV):**6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Old Testament saints were born again by faith in Him who was to come. New Testament saints are born again by faith in Him who has come.

Then again in verse 5, we read, “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood”. The word “washed” in the Greek is **λούω** (pronounced loo'-o; a primary verb;

to bathe (the whole person; whereas G3538 means to wet a part only, and G4150 to wash, cleanse garments exclusively):—wash. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G3068**

Jesus “washed” our “whole person” from “our sins in His own blood”. So it is not baptism in water that saves us, but it is our faith in Him and what He has done for us that saves us.

In verse 7, we read, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.” John refers to **Zechariah 12 (KJV):10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

The Stage Is Set For The Message

Revelation 1 (KJV):8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. **9** I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. **10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, **11** Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. **12** And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; **13** And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. **14** His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; **15** And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. **16** And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. **17** And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: **18** I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. **19** Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; **20** The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Commentary: In verse 8 we read, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

“Alpha and Omega” are the first and last letters in the Greek alphabet. The “Almighty” is speaking. He is “the beginning and the ending”, “the first and the last” in verse 11.

In verse 9, the apostle John says that he is our “brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ”.

In verse 10, John says that he “was in the Spirit on the Lord's day”. Tradition says that this is the day Jesus rose from the dead. Being “in the Spirit” tells us that John was waiting on the Lord.

In verse 11, Jesus says to John, “I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches”, and He lists the seven churches which “are in Asia”, that is, “unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea”.

And we read in **Isaiah 41 (KJV):4** Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.

And in **Isaiah 44 (KJV):6** Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

And in **Isaiah 48 (KJV):12** Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

In verse 12, John turned and “saw seven golden candlesticks”, and in verse 13, “in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man”.

In verse 14, John describes Him, and says, “His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;”

And in verse 15, “his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters”.

In verse 16, John saw that, “he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength”.

In verse 17, John says, “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead”, but then he said that Jesus, “laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:”

Then in verses 18 to 19, He continues and says, “18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. 19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;”

The word “hereafter” is a translation of two words in Greek, **μετὰ ταῦτα** (pronounced meta tauta). The first Greek word is **μετά** (pronounced met-ah'; a primary preposition (often used adverbially); properly, denoting accompaniment; "amid" (local or causal); modified variously according to the case (genitive association, or accusative succession) with which it is joined; occupying an intermediate position between G575 or G1537 and G1519 or G4314; less intimate than G1722 and less close than G4862):—after(-ward), × that he again, against, among, ×and, + follow, hence, hereafter, in, of, (up-)on, + our, × and setting, since, (un-)to, +together, when, with (+ -out). Often used in composition, in substantially the same relations of participation or proximity, and transfer or sequence. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G3326**

The second Greek word is **ταῦτα** (pronounced tow'-tah); nominative or accusative case neuter plural of G3778; these things:—+ afterward, follow, + hereafter, × him, the same, so, such, that, then, these, they, this, those, thus. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G5023**

So a more correct translation is as we read in **Revelation 1 (NASB)**: 19 Therefore write the things which you have seen and the things which are, and the things which will take place **after these things**.

In verse 19, we have the divisions of this book. John was told to write the things he had seen, as in Revelation 1:1-20, and the things which are, which will be recorded in Revelation 2:1-3:22, and the things which shall be hereafter, that is, after these things. The things which will be after the things which he had seen and the things which are in Revelation 1:1-3:22 will be recorded in Revelation 4:1-22:21.

In verse 20, the Lord explains the “mystery of the seven stars”. They are the “angels of the seven churches”. That is, they are representative of the leaders in these seven churches. The fact that they are angels probably relates to the fact that their message is to carry forward through the centuries to the whole Church. The “seven golden candlesticks” are representative of the “seven churches” in Asia, which were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. John is told to write the things which he has seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter, or after these things. Now none of the churches he is writing to still exist today, so the messages to the seven churches also relate to 7 periods in the history of the Church. The dates of these periods are approximate as we shall see.

The Things Which Are, Revelation 2-3

1.) The message to the angel of the church of Ephesus (70 to 170 A.D.):

- a) **The Salutation: Revelation 2 (KJV):1** Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;
- b) **The Commendation: Revelation 2 (KJV):2** I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.
- c) **The Rebuke: Revelation 2 (KJV):4** Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.
- d) **The Warning: Revelation 2 (KJV):5** Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.
- e) **Praise: Revelation 2 (KJV):6** But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.
- f) **The Promise: Revelation 2 (KJV):7** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Note: The word “Nicolaitanes” in verse 6 in the Greek is **Νικολαῖτης** (pronounced nik-ol-ah-ee'-tace); from G3532; a Nicolaite, i.e. adherent of Nicolaus:—Nicolaitane. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G3531**

This Greek word is derived from **Νικόλαος** (pronounced nik-ol'-ah-os); from G3534 and G2994; victorious over the people; Nicolaus, a heretic:—Nicolaus. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G3532**

This Greek word is derived from two Greek words, **νίκος** (pronounced ne'-kos), from G3529; a conquest (concretely), i.e. (by implication) triumph:—victory. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G3534**

And from **Λαοδικεύς** (pronounced lah-od-ik-yooce'); from G2993; a Laodicean, i.e. inhabitant of Laodicia:—Laodicean. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G2994** And this Greek word is derived from **Λαοδικεία** (pronounced lä-o-de'-ka-ä), from a compound of G2992 and G1349; Laodicia, a place in Asia Minor:—Laodicea. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G2993**

And this Greek word is derived from **λαός** (pronounced lä-o's), apparently a primary word; a people (in general; thus differing from G1218, which denotes one's own populace):—people. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G2992**

And from **δίκη** (pronounced de'-ka), probably from G1166; right (as self-evident), i.e. justice (the principle, a decision, or its execution):—judgment, punish, vengeance. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G1349**

Commentary: By the definition above, the Nicolaitanes were conquering the people. That is, they had begun judging or ruling over the people in the Church. But the deeds of the Nicolaitanes had not yet progressed to be a doctrine in this Church.

In verse 2, the Ephesians could not “bear them which are evil”, and they “tried them which say they are apostles” but were not, and they found them to be “liars”. The existence of “them which are evil” and of false apostles has been so throughout the Church age.

And it is interesting that every message to the seven churches mention, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”.

This is also referred to in **Ezekiel 12 (KJV):2** Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.

And we read in **Zechariah 7 (KJV):11** But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

And Jesus also said this in **Matthew 11 (KJV):15** He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

And Jesus repeated this a total of 8 times in the Gospels. Just because one has ears does not mean that they hear. If our heart is willing to listen, God will speak in a way that we will be able to hear His voice, and know that it is without a doubt His words.

And every message to the seven churches has a promise “To him that overcometh...”. And John tells us who the overcomers are in **1 John 5 (KJV):4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

2.) The message to the angel of the church in Smyrna (170 to 312 A.D.):

- a) **The Salutation: Revelation 2 (KJV):8** And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;
- b) **The Commendation: Revelation 2 (KJV):9** I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.
- c) **The Exhortation: Revelation 2 (KJV):10** Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
- d) **Rebuke:** none
- e) **The Promise: Revelation 2 (KJV):11** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Commentary: Smyrna means myrrh. There was not rebuke for this church. They were to suffer “tribulation ten days”. There were 10 great persecutions in the early church.

1st Under Nero A.D. 64-68

2nd Under Domitian A.D. 95- 96

3rd Under Trajan A.D. 106-117

4th Under Marcus Aurelius A.D. 161-180

5th Under Severus A.D. 202 – 211

6th Under Maximinus A.D. 235-238

7th Under Decius A.D. 249-251

8th Under Valerian A.D. 257-260

9th Under Aurelian A.D. 274-275

10th Under Diocletian A.D. 303-305

3.) The message to the angel of the church in Pergamos (312 to 606 A.D.):

- a) **The Salutation: Revelation 2 (KJV):12** And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;
- b) **The Commendation: Revelation 2 (KJV):13** I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.
- c) **The Rebuke: Revelation 2 (KJV):14** But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. 15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.

- d) **The Warning: Revelation 2 (KJV):16** Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.
- e) **The Promise: Revelation 2 (KJV):17** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Commentary: In Numbers 22, Balak had tried to get Balaam to curse the people but God would not allow it, as we read in **Numbers 22 (KJV):9** And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee? 10 And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying, 11 Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out. 12 And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.

Then we read in **Numbers 24 (KJV):25** And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way.

And then in **Numbers 25 (KJV):1** And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. 2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. 3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.

Then we read in **Numbers 31 (KJV):14** And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host, with the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle. 15 And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? 16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the Lord in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the Lord.

So before Balaam had “returned to his place: and Balak also went his way” in Numbers 24:25 above, Balaam had given counsel to Balak to show him how he could get the people to be cursed without Balaam himself cursing them. So the “doctrine of Balaam” in Revelation 2:14 is the teaching “to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication”, that is, to commit idolatry.

Also, the deeds of the Nicolaitanes in Revelation 2:6 had now progressed to be a doctrine in this Church. And Pergamos means “marriage”. The Church had now joined with the Roman empire, and so, in order to please the empire, they began to Christianize pagan practices.

The warning was as in verse 16, “Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth”. The “sword” refers to the truth in the word of God.

4.) **The message to the angel of the church in Thyatira (606 to 1520 A.D.):**

- a) **The Salutation: Revelation 2 (KJV):18** And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass;
- b) **Commendation: Revelation 2 (KJV):19** I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.
- c) **Rebuke: Revelation 2 (KJV):20** Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. 21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. 22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. 23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

- d) **The Promise: Revelation 2 (KJV):**24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Commentary: Jezebel was the wife of King Ahab in Israel, as we read in **1 Kings 16 (KJV):**29 And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. 30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. 31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. 32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

Jezebel had the prophets of the Lord killed, as we read in **1 Kings 18 (KJV):**3 And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly: 4 For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

And in **1 Kings 18 (KJV):**13 Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

The Church was teaching the people to “commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols”. Their worship was all about ritual, which was a misinterpretation of the Scripture. Their faith was in the ritual, and not in the person of Christ.

5.) The message to the angel of the church in Sardis (1520 to 1750 A.D.):

- a) **The Salutation: Revelation 3 (KJV):**1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars;...
- b) **The Condemnation: Revelation 3 (KJV):**1 ...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
- c) **The Counsel: Revelation 3 (KJV):**2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent...
- d) **The Warning: Revelation 3 (KJV):**3 ...If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.
- e) **The Promise:** 4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Commentary: The Church in Sardis was a dead church. Only a few in Sardis realized that the Lord wants a personal relationship with us. It is about hearing His word and believing in Him, as we read in **John 5 (KJV):**24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath

everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

We pass from death to everlasting life when we believe in Him. This everlasting life is now in our spirit, as Jesus taught Nicodemus in **John 3 (KJV):6** That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

This is what John wrote in **1 John 5 (KJV):13** These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

It is not about our works, or keeping certain rituals. It is about His grace, as Paul wrote in **Ephesians 2 (KJV):8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

6.) **The message to the church in Philadelphia (1750 to the Rapture):**

- a) **The Salutation: Revelation 3 (KJV):7** And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;
- b) **Commendation: 8** I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.
- c) **Rebuke: none**
- d) **The Promise: 9** Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. 10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. 11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. 12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. 13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Commentary: In verse 10, this Church will be kept from “the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth”. This refers to the tribulation period of seven years, the last week of Daniel’s 70 weeks of years in Daniel 9:24-27.

7.) **The message to the church of the Laodiceans (1870 through the Tribulation):**

- a) **The Salutation: Revelation 3 (KJV):14** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
- b) **Commendation: none**
- c) **Rebuke: Revelation 3 (KJV):15** I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:
- d) **The Counsel: Revelation 3 (KJV):18** I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be

clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

- e) **The Chastening: Revelation 3 (KJV):19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.
- f) **The Promise: Revelation 3 (KJV):20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Commentary: There is a discernable gradual increase in the rebukes to these churches until in the church of the Laodiceans the Lord stands outside of the church, and at the door, knocking. Then also note that the church in Philadelphia is told that they will be kept from “the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth”. This refers to the tribulation period, also known as “Jacob’s trouble” in **Jeremiah 30 (KJV):4** And these are the words that the Lord spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. 5 For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

It is likely therefore that these seven churches mentioned above, in addition to being real churches at the time of this prophecy, are also representative periods of time in the history of the Church. In 1870 Pope Pius IX declared that the Pope was infallible as a result of the First Vatican Council. In the Roman Catholic Church there is a hierarchy of Pope, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, and Nuns. In this church, the people are told to trust the clergy to interpret the Scriptures for them, and not to interpret it for themselves. According to their thinking, this is so that the people do not misinterpret the Scriptures. However, this goes directly against what the apostle John taught in **1 John 2 (KJV):26** These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

God is not far from us if we will listen for His voice. Our God is a God of peace, as we read in **Romans 15 (KJV):3** Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

His peace passes our understanding, as we read in **Philippians 4 (KJV):7** And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

His wisdom is pure, and peaceable, as we read in **James 3 (KJV):17** But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

As we think on things which are true, we will know His peace, as we read in **Philippians 4 (KJV):8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Our God is above all, as John the Baptist testified about Jesus in **John 3 (KJV):31** He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. 32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. 33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. 35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

We don’t put our trust in man but in Jesus Christ who came from above, and is above all. It is the truth that sets us free, as Jesus taught in **John 8 (KJV):31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

And Jesus said in **John 14 (KJV):6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the

life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

In the next section, we will look at **Things Which Must Be Hereafter**. The Lord has given us an outline of what will happen in the Church age. Now He is going to show us what will take place after the Church age.

Things Which Must Be Hereafter

I. A Vision of Heaven: the Open Door, Revelation 4

Revelation 4 (KJV): 1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. 4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Commentary: In verse 1, John hears a voice telling him to “Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”

The words “After this” and the word “hereafter” in verse 1 are again a translation of two words in Greek, **μετὰ ταῦτα** (pronounced meta tauta), and literally means “after these things”.

So verse 1 should be translated as we read in **Revelation 4 (NASB):** 1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”

In verse 2, John says, “And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne”.

The word “immediately” in the Greek is **εὐθέως** (pronounced yoo-theh'-oce; adverb from G2117; directly, i.e. at once or soon:—anon, as soon as, forthwith, immediately, shortly, straightway. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G2112**

And John is in heaven and in verse 3, John sees that “he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald”.

In verse 4, “And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”

The twenty-four elders in verse 4 represent the 12 apostles and the 12 tribes of Israel. Therefore they represent the Church and all of the Old Testament saints, which will be raptured before the tribulation week, the last week of the 70 prophesied in Daniel 9:24-27. This is so that God may again deal with Israel as a nation. This shows the chronological flow of the book of Revelation. John now saw what was going to happen in the future.

In verse 5, we read, “And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Before the seven seals begin, “out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices”. The seals will then begin in **Revelation 6 (KJV):** 1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a

crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

The seventh seal will be opened in **Revelation 8 (KJV):1** And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

When he opened the seventh seal there was no judgment. But the “lightnings and thunderings and voices” will precede the seven trumpets, as we read in **Revelation 8 (KJV):5** And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The seventh angel will sound in **Revelation 11 (KJV):15** And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

When he opened the seventh trumpet there was also no judgment. But the “lightnings and thunderings and voices” will precede the seven plagues or vials, as we read in **Revelation 11 (KJV):19** And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The seven plagues or vials are then mentioned in **Revelation 15 (KJV):6** And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

And in **Revelation 16 (KJV):1** And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

The seventh seal includes the seven trumpet judgments, and the seventh trumpet includes the seven vial judgments. This is another proof of the chronological flow of the book of Revelation.

II. A Book with Seven Seals, Revelation 5

Revelation 5 (KJV):1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? 3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. 4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

1) The Lion of the Tribe of Judah:

Revelation 5 (KJV):5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Commentary: He may have been a “Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes”, but He still “came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne”. The book is the title deed to the whole earth.

2) The Four and Twenty Elders Revealed as Representing All Raptured Believers:

Revelation 5 (KJV):8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open

the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Commentary: The “four and twenty elders” were “redeemed” by the blood of the Lamb “out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”, and they are viewed in heaven. They represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles. This unity is also seen in the New Jerusalem, as we read in **Revelation 21 (KJV):** 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

3) Worthy Is the Lamb:

Revelation 5 (KJV): 11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Commentary: There will never be anyone more worthy than the “Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing”.

III. Daniel’s Seventieth Week Begins, Revelation 6

The First Seal

Revelation 6 (KJV): 1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four Beasts saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Commentary: As the Lamb, Jesus, opens the seals, events begin to happen on earth. The white horse refers to the Antichrist who will begin to set up his kingdom. He will begin by coming in “peaceably”, and by “flatteries”, as we read in **Daniel 11 (KJV):** 22 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

And in **Daniel 11 (KJV):** 32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

This is the time when the Antichrist will make a “covenant with many”, as we read in **Daniel 9 (KJV):** 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The Antichrist will be the beast that carries the “whore” in Revelation 17 for the first 3½ years, as we read in **Revelation 17 (KJV):** 1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the

judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

That the “beast” in verse 3 is the Antichrist will be revealed in Revelation 13. That this will be a time such as has never been on the earth before nor shall be afterward we shall soon see.

The Second Seal

Revelation 6 (KJV):3 And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. 4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

Commentary: As the Antichrist begins to set up his kingdom, going “forth conquering, and to conquer”, there will be war, and peace will be taken from the earth.

The Third Seal

Revelation 6 (KJV):5 And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Commentary: This speaks of famine, which will come about as a result of the war.

The Fourth Seal

Revelation 6 (KJV):7 And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. 8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Commentary: The 2023 estimate of the population of the world is 8.062 billion. One fourth of that is about 2 billion, making the world’s population after this plague to be about 6 billion. Lawlessness will increase when the Church is raptured and the “one who restrains” is removed, as we read in **2 Thessalonians 2 (NASB):**8 And you know what restrains him now, so that he will be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is removed. 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

The tribulation will be a time of trouble on the earth such as has never been before, nor ever shall be afterwards, as Jesus taught in **Matthew 24 (KJV):**21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

The Fifth Seal

Revelation 6 (KJV):9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

Commentary: Many shall be saved in the tribulation, and will suffer martyrdom. This will again reduce the world's population by an untold number.

The Sixth Seal

Revelation 6 (KJV):12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Commentary: No repentance is here mentioned of “the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man”. Instead, they hide “from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb”.

IV. Interlude, Revelation 7

The Sealing of the 144,000

Revelation 7 (KJV):1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. 5 Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of Asher were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh were sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of Zebulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

Commentary: We read in **Ephesians 1 (KJV):**12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

So when we hear the “word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” and believe, we pass from death to life, as we read in **John 5 (KJV):**24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth

my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

When we pass from death to life, we are born again, and we have everlasting life in our spirit. This is what Jesus taught Nicodemus in **John 3 (KJV)**:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

In verse 6, Jesus taught that, “that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”. Before we believed we were dead in “offenses and sins”, as we read in **Ephesians 2 (NASB)**:1 And you were dead in your offenses and sins, 2 in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.3 Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

When we believe in Jesus Christ, God makes us “alive together with Christ” in verse 5 above. We now have everlasting life in our spirit, as we read in **1 John 5 (KJV)**:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

So we read again in **Ephesians 1 (KJV)**:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We are “sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” after we believed. So when the angel “sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads”, they had already believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. This sealing was to empower them to be witnesses of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Result of The Witness of the 144,000

Revelation 7 (KJV):9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Commentary: In verse 9, John sees “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all

nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues”. In verse 14 one the elders tells John, “These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” The 144,000 Jews will finally fulfill their calling. By how much this “great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues” will reduce the world’s population we do not know, but if it is “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues”, one could only imagine the number that were saved and gone to heaven, and the number still left on earth who might be saved and might not.

V. The Seventh Seal, Revelation 8

Revelation 8 (KJV):1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Commentary: In verse 1, the seventh seal is opened. Then in verse 5, “there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake”. Then in verse 6, “seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound”. There is no judgment in the seventh seal. The seventh seal triggers the seven trumpets.

The First Trumpet

Revelation 8 (KJV):7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The Second Trumpet

Revelation 8 (KJV):8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood: 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

The Third Trumpet

Revelation 8 (KJV):10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Commentary: We don’t know the number of the men who “died of the waters, because they were made bitter”, but this will add to the total of all who were killed during the tribulation week.

The Fourth Trumpet (The Three Woes)

Revelation 8 (KJV):12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. 13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The Fifth Trumpet (The First Woe), Revelation 9

Revelation 9 (KJV):1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. 12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Commentary: The word “Abaddon” in the Greek is Ἀβaddon (pronounced ab-add-own’); of Hebrew origin [H11]; a destroying angel:—Abaddon. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G3**

The word “Apollyon” in the Greek is Ἀπολλών (pronounced ap-ol-loo’-own) active participle of G622; a destroyer (i.e. Satan):—Apollyon. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G623**

This will be a horde of demons. This should be a warning to those on earth now, and at that time, about what is still to come.

The Sixth Trumpet (The Second Woe)

Revelation 9 (KJV):13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. 16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. 17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. 18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. 20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Commentary: After the world's population was reduced by one fourth in Revelation 6:8 by the fourth seal, leaving earth's population then to be about 6 billion, we now read of the "third part of men" being slain in the sixth trumpet. If we suppose that this will also include women, that would bring the world's population down by about another 2 billion, leaving about 4 billion left. This would mean the death of about one half of the world's population by these two judgments at this time. And if we count the deaths of unspecified numbers in the third trumpet when the waters became wormwood, and the martyrs seen in heaven in Revelation 7, the world's population will be much less than half of what is calculated here. It will be a time of trouble such as never was before or will be after. And this is only within the first 3½ years of the tribulation week.

VI. Interlude, Revelation 10

The Little Book

Revelation 10 (KJV):1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: 2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, 3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. 5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven. 6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. 8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. 9 And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. 10 And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. 11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

Commentary: The little book included more prophesy about what lay ahead. It was going to be a very bitter end.

VII. Interlude, Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11 (KJV):1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. 3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut

heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Commentary: In verse 2 we read that “the court which is without the temple” is “given unto the Gentiles” who will “tread under foot forty and two months” the “holy city”. The witness in verse 3 of the “two witnesses” will last for “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”, or 3½ years. At least part of the time they will be in Jerusalem, “where also our Lord was crucified”, as in verse 8.

We don’t know when their witness will begin but it seems likely that it begins sometime around the beginning of the first 3½ years because it is the “beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit” that “shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them” in verse 7, and the antichrist does not become the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit until the middle of the tribulation week, as we read in **Revelation 13 (KJV)**: 1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

This will be the final “forty and two months” of the tribulation week. The Antichrist will receive a “wound by a sword” and yet live in **Revelation 13 (KJV)**: 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

When he receives a “wound by a sword, and did live”, it will likely be the time when Judas will ascend out of the bottomless pit to inhabit the Antichrist. Judas was the “son of perdition” that we read of in **John 17 (KJV)**: 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

And Paul wrote of this one in **2 Thessalonians 2 (KJV)**: 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Judas hung himself, as we read in **Matthew 27 (KJV)**: 3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

And then he went “to his own place”, as in **Acts 1 (KJV)**: 25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own

place.

Judas seems to fit the description of the beast that will ascend out of the bottomless pit. There is only one “son of perdition” mentioned in the Scripture and it is Judas. And we read in **Mark 14 (KJV):21** The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

Then in verse 14 of Revelation 11, the “second woe is past” refers to the sixth trumpet in which the “third part of men” will be “killed”.

The Seventh Trumpet (The Third Woe)

Revelation 11 (KJV):15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. 18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. 19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Commentary: In verse 15 “the seventh angel sounded”, and in verse 19, “there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail”. Again, there was no judgment with the seventh trumpet, but it will trigger the seven vials or plagues, which will begin in Revelation 15. This will be the “third woe”.

VIII. Middle of the Week, Revelation 12

Revelation 12 (KJV):1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: 2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. 7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a

time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Commentary: The woman in verses 1-6 is “clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars”. We have a divine commentary on the interpretation of these symbols in Joseph’s dream, as we read in **Genesis 37 (KJV):9** And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Then we note that, in verse 5, “she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne”. The child was Jesus who was the promised Messiah, a descendant of King David, as we read in **Jeremiah 23 (KJV):5** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness.

The identity of the woman then is Israel. The remnant in Israel will have “a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days”, that is, for 3½ years, the last half of the tribulation week. This was prophesied in **Isaiah 26 (KJV):20** Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. 21 For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

The last half of the tribulation week will be the time that Jesus foretold in **Matthew 24 (KJV):15** When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

We must remember to always interpret all symbols in the Bible by the Bible alone.

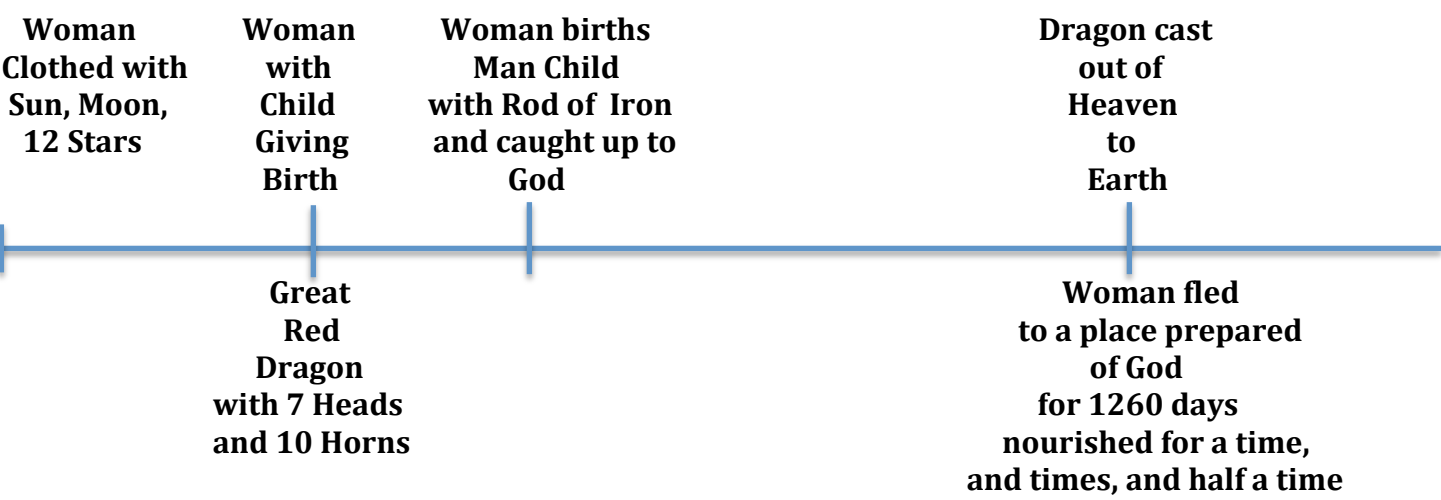
Also, we note that in Revelation 12:9 above, “the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him”. And we read in Revelation 12:12 above, “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

The Devil will then be restricted to the earth. Now in Revelation 12:3 above, the “great red dragon” has “seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads”. This identifies him with the kingdom of the Antichrist which will be the revived Roman empire, the fourth kingdom Daniel prophesied of in Daniel 2:40-43, Daniel 7:23-26, Daniel 8:9-12 and 23-25, and Daniel 11:21-45 and Daniel 12:7. The Devil will now empower the Antichrist in Revelation, chapter 13.

The things we must remember in Revelation 12 are that the woman is Israel because the symbols are interpreted for us in Joseph’s dream in Genesis 37. The woman gave birth to a man child who would rule with a rod of iron, which was prophesied in **Psalms 2 (KJV):7** I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

And the woman will be given a place by God to flee to for safety for 1260 days, or 3½ Biblical years. And this is explained as “a time, and times, and half a time” in Revelation 12:14. Satan will be cast out of heaven during this time, which will be a time of great tribulation such as was never on the earth before, and will never be again.



IX. The Second Half of the Week Begins, Revelation 13

The Beast

Revelation 13 (KJV):1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9 If any man have an ear, let him hear. 10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

Commentary: As the first seal was opened in Revelation 6:1-2, the Antichrist was riding forth to come to power. And now in Revelation 13:5 above we read that, “power was given unto him to continue forty and two months”. This will be at the middle of the tribulation week which is spoken of in **Daniel 9 (KJV):**27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Now we read in Revelation 13:6, “And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.” The Antichrist will confirm the covenant with Israel for one week, but in the midst of the week he will declare himself to be God in the temple, as we read in **2 Thessalonians 2 (KJV):**3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that

man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This is when Israel will be given “two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent”, as we read above in Revelation 12:14.

Now in Revelation 13:1 we read, “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea..., and in 13:2, we read, “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority”.

We read of these same beasts in **Daniel 7 (KJV)**: 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. 6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. 9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.

Now Daniel did not understand this vision and who the beasts were. So he asked, and it was explained, as we read in **Daniel 7 (KJV)**: 16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. 17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. 19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. 25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. 27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

So the fourth beast “shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces”, as in verse 23 above. Now the four kingdoms were also mentioned in Daniel’s explanation of the great image that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream, as we read in **Daniel 2 (KJV)**: 31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part

of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

And then the interpretation is given in **Daniel 2 (KJV)**:36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Belshazzar was the last king of Babylon, as we read in **Daniel 5 (KJV)**:1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand. 2 Belshazzar, whiles he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Belshazzar saw the fingers of a man's hand write on the wall during the feast, and Daniel was called to interpret, as we continue in **Daniel 5 (KJV)**:25 And this is the writing that was written, Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin. 26 This is the interpretation of the thing: Mene; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. 27 Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28 Peres; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. 29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. 30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. 31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

So the Medes and the Persians were the second kingdom. Then we read of the third kingdom in **Daniel 8 (KJV)**:19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. 20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. 23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

So after Media-Persia, the kingdom of Grecia, or Greece, will be the third kingdom. The "great horn" in verse 21 was Alexander the Great, the "first king" of Greece. After Alexander the Great died in 323 B.C., his kingdom was divided into four kingdoms, the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt, the Seleucid Empire, the Attalid Dynasty of the Kingdom of Pergamon, and Macedon. After Greece, the fourth kingdom was Rome, which was acknowledged as a world power in 27 B.C. with the reign of Octavian.

History also tells us that these four kingdoms were Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, and Rome. Now in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the image had two legs and ten toes. We know that the Roman empire became divided.

"Growing into one of the largest empires in human history is an incredible achievement. The Roman Kingdom, then the Republic, and then the Empire, gained this status through more than a thousand years of expansion, conquest, trade, and internal development.

Eventually Rome became so large that the government had difficulty ruling and protecting its vast territory. Many tribes were moving into Roman lands and could not be stopped due to weakening Roman leadership and political instability.

In 286 CE, Emperor Diocletian decided to divide Rome into two sections to try and stabilize the empire. For a hundred years Rome experienced even more divisions until the empire was finally divided in 395 CE and became the Western Empire and the Eastern Empire." <https://www.studentsofhistory.com/division-of-the-empire#:~:text=In%20286%20CE%2C%20Emperor%20Diocletian,Empire%20and%20the%20Eastern%20Empire.>

God knows the end from the beginning, as we read in **Isaiah 46 (KJV):9** Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

So when we read that "the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion" in Revelation 13:2, we understand that the beast will include the first three kingdoms of Babylon, Media Persia, and Greece, which Rome conquered, as in Daniel's visions. There will therefore be a revival of the Roman Empire. The "ten toes" are coming.

Now Clarence Larkin notes, "When we compare these "Foreviews," and note the similarity of conduct of Daniel's "LITTLE HORN," Paul's "MAN OF SIN," and John's "BEAST," and that Daniel's "LITTLE HORN" and John's "BEAST" are to continue for the same length of time – "Forty and Two Months," or 3½ years, and that Daniel's "LITTLE HORN," Paul's "MAN OF SIN," and John's "BEAST," are all to be destroyed in the same manner at Christ's "Second Coming," we see that they all prefigure the same "Evil Power," which is after the "Working of Satan," and which John in 1 John 2:18, calls THE ANTICHRIST. In other words when we find in prophecy "Three Symbolic Personages" that come upon the stage of action at the same time, occupy the same territory, exhibit the same character, do the same work, exist the same length of time, and meet the same fate, they must symbolize the SAME THING." **The Book of Revelation** by Clarence Larkin, page 97 of the pdf.

And we read in **1 John 2 (KJV):18** Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Another Beast

Revelation 13 (KJV):11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. 16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of

his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

Commentary: Now in verses 11 and 12 of Revelation 13 we read, “11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

This other “beast” is called the “false prophet” in **Revelation 16 (KJV):13** And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

And in **Revelation 19 (KJV):20** And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

And in **Revelation 20 (KJV):10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In verse 14 he will “make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.” The beast “which had the wound by a sword, and did live” will be the Antichrist.

And in verse 15, the false prophet will “cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

In verses 16 and 17 of Revelation 13, He will cause “all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

This will be the time of the great tribulation when everyone will be required to worship the image of the beast or be killed, and “to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads” or “the name of the beast, or the number of his name” in order to “buy or sell”.

X. Interlude, Revelation 14

The Heavenly Harvest

Revelation 14 (KJV):1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. **2** And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: **3** And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. **4** These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. **5** And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Commentary: These are the 144,000 sealed Israelites who preached the Gospel, and as a result of their preaching, we read in Revelation 7, verse 9, that “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands”. The 144,000 were then martyred and seen in the heavenly mount Sion in verse 1 above, after their witness to the Gospel. And so we see them “before the throne”, as in verse 3, “And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”

The Hour of Judgment

Revelation 14 (KJV):6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. 12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. 14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. 17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

Commentary: This is an interlude with messages from angels. The first angel in verses 6 to 7 has the “everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth”. The second in verse 8 says that “Babylon is fallen” because “she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication”. This refers to the burning of Mystery Babylon by fire in the middle of the tribulation week, which we will read about in Revelation 17 and 18. The third angel in verse 9 to 11 speaks of the judgment on “any man” who will “worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand”. In verse 14 one like “the Son of Man”, that is Jesus Christ, will have “on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle” with which He will “reap” for the “harvest of the earth is ripe”. This is speaking of the harvest of those who will believe in the gospel during the tribulation week. Then another angel will “gather the clusters of the vine of the earth” and “cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God”. This speaks of the judgment on all those who will deny the gospel during the tribulation week.

In verse 20, a “furlong” is “a unit of distance equal to 220 yards (about 201 meters)”.

Merriam Webster

So “a thousand and six hundred furlongs” would equal 200 miles. This is speaking of the coming battle of Armageddon, which we will read about in Revelation 19:11-21.

XI. The Seven Last Plagues, Revelation 15-16

Revelation 15 (KJV):1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. 2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. 5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

Commentary: In verse 1, the word “last” in the Greek is ἔσχατος (pronounced es'-khat-os); a superlative probably from G2192 (in the sense of contiguity); farthest, final (of place or time):—ends of, last, latter end, lowest, uttermost. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G2078**

These last or final plagues “filled up the wrath of God”, that is, they will be the end of the wrath of God. This is another proof of the chronology of Revelation.

Then in verse 2, those who “had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name” are those who were martyred during the week of tribulation. They are now in heaven, and “stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God”.

In verses 3 and 4, “And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”

We also read of the song that “Moses and the children of Israel” sang in **Exodus 15 (KJV):**1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2 The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. 5 The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. 6 Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. 7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. 8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

In verse 7, the “seven last plagues” were “seven golden vials full of the wrath of God”. The word “plague” in the Greek is πλῆγῃ (pronounced play-gay'); from G4141; a stroke; by implication, a wound; figuratively, a calamity:—plague, stripe, wound(-ed). **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G4127**

The word “vials” in the Greek is φιάλη (pronounced fee-al'-ay); of uncertain affinity; a broad shallow cup ("phial"):—vial. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G5357**

The 1st Plague

Revelation 16 (KJV):1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. 2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

Commentary: This reminds us of the sixth plague the Lord put upon the Egyptians in **Exodus 9 (KJV):**8 And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. 10 And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. 11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians. 12 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had spoken unto Moses.

This plague was not something that man caused. Likewise, the first plague in Revelation 16:1-2 will also not be anything that man will cause.

The 2nd Plague

Revelation 16 (KJV):3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

Commentary: We saw in Revelation 8:8-9 that, at the sounding of the “Second Trumpet,” the third part of the sea became blood, and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. Here the whole sea is affected.

The 3rd Plague

Revelation 16 (KJV):4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. 7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Commentary: This is a repetition of the “First Egyptian Plague” in **Exodus 7 (KJV):**19 And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. 20 And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. 21 And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. 22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the Lord had said. 23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also. 24 And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river.

When the waters of Egypt were turned into blood, all the fish died, but here, in Revelation 16:4-7, nothing is said about the inhabitants of the rivers and ponds. But the plagues are so similar that the death of the fish is very likely.

The 4th Plague

Revelation 16 (KJV):8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

Commentary: When the fourth trumpet sounded only a third part was smitten in **Revelation 8 (KJV):**12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Only the light was diminished, and heat was not mentioned in the fourth trumpet sounding. But the fourth vial reminds us of **Malachi 4 (KJV):**1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

But even so, they did not repent, but “blasphemed the name of God”.

The 5th Plague

Revelation 16 (KJV):10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

Commentary: Here we have a repetition of the ninth Egyptian Plague, that of darkness, as in **Exodus 10 (KJV):**21 And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. 22 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: 23 They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

The time of this vial is mentioned in **Joel 2 (KJV):**1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; 2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

Man will not repent during this time. Instead, they will blaspheme the “God of heaven because of their pains and their sores”, as in verse 11 above.

The 6th Plague

Revelation 16 (KJV):12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Commentary: The drying up of the River Euphrates reminds us of when Israel walked on dry ground across the Red Sea in **Exodus 14 (KJV):**21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of

the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the Lord fighteth for them against the Egyptians. 26 And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the Lord overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. 29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. 31 And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.

The drying up of the “great river Euphrates” will probably be a sign to the nations of the world that they should come to the battle of Armageddon. The “unclean spirits like frogs” that came out of the “mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet” in Revelation 16:13-14 will be some of the “seducing spirits” Paul mentions in **1 Timothy 4 (KJV):1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

The 7th Plague

Revelation 16 (KJV):17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Commentary: The definition of “the weight of a talent”:

“The heavy common talent, used in New Testament times, was 58.9 kg (129 lb 14 oz). A Roman weight talent in ancient times is equivalent to 100 librae; a libra is exactly three quarters of an Attic weight mina, so a Roman talent is 1.33 Attic talents and hence approximately 32.3 kg (71 lb 3 oz).” **Wikipedia**

This reminds us of the time when Joshua fought the Amorites, as in **Joshua 10 (KJV):5** Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it. 6 And the men of Gibeon sent unto Joshua to the camp to Gilgal, saying, Slack not thy hand from thy servants; come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us. 7 So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he, and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valour. 8 And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee. 9 Joshua therefore came unto them suddenly, and went up from Gilgal all night. 10 And the Lord discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah. 11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto

Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

The law required that “blasphemers” be stoned to death, as we read in **Leviticus 24 (KJV):16** And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the Lord, shall be put to death.

And so we read in verse 21 above, “and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail”, and also in **Revelation 13 (KJV):6** And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

And in **Revelation 16 (KJV):9** And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

And in **Revelation 16 (KJV):11** And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

These plagues, or vials, will not be induced by man, for they are the “vials of the wrath of God upon the earth” in Revelation 16:1.

XII. Interlude, Revelation 17-18

Judgment of the Great Whore

Revelation 17 (KJV):1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: **2** With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. **3** So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. **4** And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: **5** And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth. **6** And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. **7** And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. **8** The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. **9** And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. **10** And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. **11** And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. **12** And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. **13** These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. **14** These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. **15** And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. **16** And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. **17** For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. **18** And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Commentary: In verse 1, we read of the “great whore that sitteth upon many waters:” The “waters” are interpreted for us in verse 15, “The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.” In verse 2, she made “the kings of the earth” commit “fornication”, and the “inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication”. Fornication in the Biblical sense is having intimate relations with someone they are not married to. In other words, it is adultery. The “great whore” was making people commit adultery by worshipping a false god.

In verse 3 she sits “upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns”. This is the same beast that was mentioned in **Revelation 13 (KJV)**:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

In verse 4, the “woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls”, and she has “a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:” This “cup” speaks of the false teaching and false worship she is administering.

In verse 5, “upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth”. In verse 6 “the woman” was “drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus:”

So who is this woman? In verse 5, the word “Mystery” in the Greek is “**μυστήριον** (pronounced moos-tay'-ree-on); from a derivative of **μύω** **mýō** (pronounce moo-o me-oa) (to shut the mouth); a secret or "mystery" (through the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites):—mystery.” **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G3466**

So verse 5 is speaking of “Hidden, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth”.

Then in verse 7, the angel says, “I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.” The angel will now explain the “mystery of the woman”, or the “secret” or what is hidden, about the woman.

In verse 8, the beast that the woman is sitting on “was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition”. The beast was on the earth before, but was not at the time of the apostle John. He will “ascend out of the bottomless pit”.

Then in verse 9, we see that the “seven heads” that the woman sits on are symbolic of “seven mountains”. This identifies the city as Rome, which for centuries before John was known as the city on seven hills, and it was also known as such in John’s time. And in verse 18, we see that the woman is also “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”, which in John’s time was Rome.

In verse 10 the seven heads are also symbolic of “seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.”

Who are meant by the first five kings that had “fallen” we do not know. The King that was on the throne in John’s day was Domitian, who had banished John to the Isle of Patmos.

In verse 11, the beast is “the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.” And we read in **Revelation 13 (KJV)**:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

If the beast will become Judas, who will then ascend out of the bottomless pit, this would be the time of his ascension. Judas is the “son of perdition” as we read in **John 17 (KJV)**:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

And Paul refers to the “man of sin” who is also the “son of perdition” as we read in **2 Thessalonians 2 (KJV)**:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

And Jesus spoke of this one in **Mark 14 (KJV)**:21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

In verse 12, the 10 horns are 10 kings, who in verse 13, “have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast”. In verse 14 they “shall make war with the Lamb, and

the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings.”

In verse 15, the whore sits on “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues”. That is, she is spread out among many “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” throughout the world.

Now remember in verse 9, the woman sits on “seven mountains”, which in the time of John’s writing was Rome. Then in verse 16, “the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire”. In verse 17 the 10 kings will “agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled”. In verse 18, “the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”. In John’s time this was Rome. So Rome will be burned with fire.

Judgment of that Great City, Babylon (that is Rome)

Revelation 18 (KJV):1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. 7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. 8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. 11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. 20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. 21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. 22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 23 And

the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Commentary: In verses 1 to 3 we read, “1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.”

In verse 2 we read that, “Babylon the great is fallen”. The name on the forehead of the woman in Revelation 17:5 is “Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth”. But in Revelation 17:18, the woman is “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”. In John’s time this was Rome. In Revelation 17:9, the woman sits on “seven mountains” which is what Rome was known for from its beginning. A mystery is something secret and hidden. Babylon’s harlotry and false worship was hidden in the city of Rome.

We read again in **Revelation 17 (KJV):15** And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Rome has now passed Babylon’s false worship to people throughout the world.

We read of Babylon’s false worship in Daniel, chapter 3, when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, made an image of gold, and if you didn’t worship it you were thrown into a furnace of fire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused and were thrown into the furnace of fire, but God rescued them. In Daniel, chapter 6, Darius, the king of the Medes and Persians who had conquered Babylon, made a decree that no one should pray to any god but to Darius for 30 days. Daniel refused and was thrown into a den of lions, but God rescued him. The city of Rome was the center of the fourth kingdom in Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel chapter 2, and also of his three visions in Daniel, chapters 7 and 8, and chapters 10 to 12.

We read in **Oxford Reference**, “The cult of Roman emperors, living and dead, became the State religion throughout the empire, though it originated as a simple act of thankfulness for the peace and stability brought by Rome. Temples were erected in honour of Julius Caesar soon after his death (44 bce) and to Augustus in his lifetime, e.g. at Pergamum. This explains the reference to ‘Satan’s throne’ (Rev. 2: 13). In this city, as elsewhere, the cult developed because local people wanted it not in order to flatter the establishment but out of genuine gratitude for the benefits brought by Rome, and it was not felt to be a substitute for existing religions. Nevertheless, as the feelings of gratitude faded, the imperial cult became more and more a test of loyalty to the regime. The consequence was that refusal to perform the outward rituals was bound to incur penalties. Both Jews and Christians were conscientiously unable to burn incense to any human being: Jews, after some initial persecution, got exemption from Claudius; but Christians suffered when the Church’s numbers expanded sufficiently to attract the State’s hostile attention (1 Pet. 4:16). Failure to give divine honours to the emperor or ‘to swear by the genius of Caesar’ was not the only ground for persecution; but the anti-Christian writer Celsus (about 178 ce) warned Christians of the perils of their lack of civic sense and of their disloyalty to an empire from which they derived many material benefits.” **Oxfordreference.com**

Revelation chapter 18 is not speaking of the actual city of Babylon. It is speaking of the city of Rome, which had become like Babylon by its spiritual adultery with the world. So Revelation 17:5 could read as, “Hidden, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth”. Babylon, and all of its idolatry, is hidden in this woman, who is the “city of Rome”, as we read again in **Revelation 17 (KJV):18** And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

The Antichrist will form an alliance with the “woman” because of her worldly influence on all the “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” on earth, and “carry” her for the first 3½ years of the tribulation week, as we read in Revelation 17:3 and 7. The Roman Catholic Church currently has a presence in every nation on earth, and it is one of the richest entities in

the world. When the Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel in the middle of the tribulation week, he will stand in the temple and declare himself to be God. He will then have no use for Rome, and the “woman” will be burned with fire so that all allegiance may be given to him alone, and he will be worshipped as God. This city will then be burnt by the “the ten horns” which “shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire”, as we read in Revelation 17:16.

We continue to read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):** 4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.”

The Lord’s message in verses 4 to 6 is to “Come out of her, my people...” The “woman” is someone who has been around the entire Church age. This “woman” has perpetuated the sins of Babylon, which “have reached unto heaven”. The “cup, which she hath filled”, includes the martyrs of believing Christians during the inquisition of whom John Hus is one of the most notable.

We continue to read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):** 7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. 8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

In verse 9, “the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her”. The “kings of the earth” partook of her idolatry when they “committed fornication” with her. They “shall bewail her” because of their loss of the luxury she offered them.

After she has been burned with fire, the false prophet will then exercise “all the power of the first beast before him,” and cause “the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed”, as in Revelation 13:12.

After Rome will be burned with fire, “the merchants of the earth” will also “weep and mourn over her”, as we continue to read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):** 11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

In verse 11, the reason the merchants wept was because, “no man buyeth their merchandise any more”. And “no man” could in verse 12, buy the “merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble”.

Roman Catholic churches have tabernacles made of gold where they keep the eucharist.

“The eucharistic vessel, known as the paten, is a small shallow plate or disc of precious metal upon which the element of bread is offered to God at the Offertory of the Mass, and upon which the consecrated Host is again placed after the Fraction.”

“A ciborium is a large covered cup designed to hold hosts for, and after, the Eucharist, thus the counterpart (for the bread) of the chalice (for the wine). The material should be gold or silver (base metals are sometimes allowed), but the interior of the cup must be always lined with gold. According to the existing law of the Church the chalice, or at least the cup of it, must be made either of gold or of silver, and in the latter case the bowl must be gilt on the inside. In circumstances of great poverty or in time of persecution a *calix stanneus* (pewter) may be permitted, but the bowl of this also, like the upper surface of the paten must be gilt.”

Catholic.com

Gilt is gold or something that resembles gold laid on a surface. **Merriam Webster**

“The Fraction or *fractio panis* (Latin for 'breaking of the bread') is the ceremonial act of breaking the consecrated sacramental bread before distribution to communicants during the Eucharistic rite in some Christian denominations.” **Wikipedia**

The tabernacle, the paten, the ciborium, and the chalice are only some of the ornaments in the Roman Catholic churches. And in the Old Testament, under the law of Moses, Aaron was the high priest. Aaron had to wear special garments and a mitre, as we read in **Exodus 29 (KJV):4** And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water. 5 And thou shalt take the garments, and put upon Aaron the coat, and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the curious girdle of the ephod: 6 And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

And we read in **Leviticus 8 (KJV):9** And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the Lord commanded Moses.

“Mitre” is the British English spelling of “miter”. The “miter” is a “liturgical headdress worn by Roman Catholic bishops (including cardinals, archbishops, and popes) and abbots and some Anglican and Lutheran bishops. It has two shield-shaped stiffened halves that face the front and back. Two fringed streamers, known as lappets, hang from the back. It developed from the papal tiara and came into use in the 11th century. The miter is worn over a zucchetto, a silk or polyester skullcap. *See also* religious dress.

Three types of miters are worn in the Roman Catholic Church. The *simplex* is made of undecorated white linen or silk and is worn at funerals, on Good Friday, and for some other services, such as Candlemas. The *auriphrygiata* is made of plain gold cloth or white silk with gold or silver embroidered bands and is worn during penitential seasons (Advent and Lent) and at some other times. The *pretiosa* is decorated with precious stones and gold and worn on Sundays and feast days, as well as for ceremonies such as the election of a pope, the consecration of a bishop, or the canonization of a saint.”

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/miter>

The miter was something the Roman Catholic Church borrowed from the law of Moses in the Old Testament to show the authority of their priests who had assumed the positions of bishops, cardinals, archbishops, and popes. The priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church was also something it adopted from the law of Moses.

Now in the Old Testament under the law of Moses, Aaron was the chief priest, as we continue to read in **Exodus 29 (KJV):7** Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour it upon his head, and anoint him. 8 And thou shalt bring his sons, and put coats upon them. 9 And thou shalt gird them with girdles, Aaron and his sons, and put the bonnets on them: and the priest's office shall be theirs for a perpetual statute: and thou shalt consecrate Aaron and his sons.

The “priest’s office” in the Old Testament belonged only to Aaron and his sons. The other sons of Levi were helpers but not priests. Korah was a son of Levi who rebelled because of this, as we read in **Numbers 16 (KJV):1** Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

Korah was a son of Levi but not a priest, as we read in **Numbers 16 (KJV):8** And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: 9 Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them? 10 And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?

Korah would not repent and so he paid the awful price, as we read in **Numbers 16 (KJV):32** And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. 33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Under the law of Moses, the priesthood was for Aaron and his sons, and their descendants. The other sons of Levi were merely helpers in the “service of the tabernacle of the Lord” in Numbers 16:9 above. But now, after Jesus has fulfilled the law, the priesthood has changed, as we read in **Hebrews 7 (KJV):11** If therefore perfection were by the Levitical

priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

Jesus is now our high priest for evermore, as we read in **Hebrews 7 (KJV):21** (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. 23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. 28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

It is evident that, as the early Church grew among the Gentiles, there was not a clear understanding about this change of the priesthood. Because the pagan religions of the time had priests who were their ministers, a sacerdotal order began to develop in the churches, which would ultimately take over the ministry in the early Church. Not knowing that there had been a change in the priesthood to one Jesus who “continueth ever”, and “ever liveth to make intercession for them”, they began to adopt new practices which they based on the law of Moses. The tabernacle was made the place where the eucharist was kept, after the priests celebrated the unbloody sacrifice of the Mass. The adoption of the mitre, or miter, by the bishops was to show the hierarchy, which they assumed because of Peter. Peter was assumed to be the “rock” upon which the Church was to be built. But this was a complete misinterpretation of **Matthew 16 (KJV):18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The word “Peter” in the Greek is Πέτρος (pronounced pet'-ros); apparently a primary word; a (piece of) rock (larger than G3037); as a name, Petrus, an apostle:—Peter, rock. Compare G2786. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G4074**

The word “rock” in Matthew 16:18 in the Greek is πέτρα (pronounced pet'-ra); feminine of the same as G4074; a (mass of) rock (literally or figuratively):—rock. **Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G4073**

When Jesus said “upon this rock I will build my church”, He was pointing to the massive rock which was revealed in Peter's testimony of who Christ is in **Matthew 16 (KJV):15** He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And Peter himself acknowledged this, as we read in **1 Peter 2 (KJV):4** To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Peter acknowledged that Jesus Christ is the “corner stone”, and the “head of the corner”, as he quotes **Psalms 118 (KJV):22** The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

There is also no historical evidence that Peter was ever in Rome. But Peter was in Babylon as we read in **1 Peter 5 (KJV):13** The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

Peter was there, ministering to the Jews, who were still in Babylon after the dispersion when Nebuchadnezzar took them captive to Babylon. Christ is the head of His Church, and Peter acknowledged this.

When the Roman church made Peter the rock upon which Christ would build His Church, though Peter was never actually in Rome, but had been in Babylon, they made an undeniable connection to the mysteries of Babylon.

The church at Rome became subsumed by the Roman empire. This made it appear strong, as if it was preeminent over all the churches. Because of its success, it has refused to be corrected by the Scripture. Instead, it has made the pope the pontifex maximus.

“The *pontifex maximus* (Latin for 'supreme pontiff') was the chief high priest of the College of Pontiffs (*Collegium Pontificum*) in ancient Rome. This was the most important position in the ancient Roman religion, open only to patricians until 254 BC, when a plebeian first held this position. Although in fact the most powerful office in the Roman priesthood, the *pontifex maximus* was officially ranked fifth in the ranking of the highest Roman priests (*Ordo Sacerdotum*), behind the *Rex Sacrorum* and the *flamines maiores* (*Flamen Dialis*, *Flamen Martialis*, *Flamen Quirinalis*)...

The Edict of Thessalonica of 27 February 380 was enacted in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki) and published in Constantinople (Istanbul) for the whole empire. By it, Theodosius I established Nicene Christianity as the state church of the Roman Empire. The Latin text refers to the bishop of Rome, Damasus, as a *pontifex*, and the bishop of Alexandria, Peter, as an *episcopus*:

... the profession of that religion which was delivered to the Romans by the divine Apostle Peter, as it has been preserved by faithful tradition and which is now professed by the *Pontiff* Damasus and by Peter, *Bishop* of Alexandria ... We authorize the followers of this law to assume the title Catholic Christians ...” **Wikipedia**

“Peter, *Bishop* of Alexandria” is not referring to the apostle Peter but to a bishop of the time named Peter.

The word Catholic means, “of, relating to, or forming the church universal”. **Merriam Webster**

The church at Rome became the Roman Catholic Church, assuming universal authority over the whole Church. In 1869 to 1870 at the First Vatican Council, the Council defined papal infallibility. “**Papal infallibility** is a dogma of the Catholic Church which states that, in virtue of the promise of Jesus to Peter, the Pope when he speaks *ex cathedra* is preserved from the possibility of error on doctrine "initially given to the apostolic Church and handed down in Scripture and tradition".

Wikipedia

The Roman Catholic Church will ultimately be the church represented by the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22. This will be the “woman” in Revelation 17:3-6 which will “sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

The Antichrist will carry her as he comes to power. When the Antichrist has secured his power over the ten kings in the middle of the tribulation week, he will have no need of the woman any more.

When the Antichrist “exalts himself as God, he will then bring about the destruction of every form of religion. The apostate church will be destroyed by the ten nations of the revived Roman Empire as stated in Revelation 17:16, 17, "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled."

The fact that this church shall have world power is to be seen in Revelation 17:18, "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."

Thus will come to an end one of the greatest religious systems this world has ever seen.

Let us not be deceived by this church’s prestige, or power, or, form, or religious orders. Let us be sure that we belong to the true church and that we are ready to meet Christ when he

comes.” **Book Ten, Part 1, Future Events According to the Scriptures, page 6, Dr. Albert Grimes**

As we continue to read in Revelation 18, the kings of the earth and all who were made rich by her will lament, as we read in **Revelation 18 (KJV):** 14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. 20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. 21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. 22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

XIII. Interlude, Revelation 19

Marriage of the Lamb

Revelation 19 (KJV): 1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: 2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. 3 And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. 5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Commentary: There will be great rejoicing in heaven because of the righteous judgments of our God, “for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand” in verse 2. In verse 6 we read, “Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

And in verse 6, the word “omnipotent” in the Greek is **παντοκράτωρ** (pronounced pan-tok-rat'-ore); from G3956 and G2904; the all-ruling, i.e. God (as absolute and universal sovereign):—Almighty, Omnipotent. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G3841**

Verses 1 to 6 look back upon the judgment of the “great whore” in Revelation, chapters 17 and 18.

In verse 7, “the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready”. The Church will be presented to the Lord as a chaste virgin, as Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 11 (KJV):2** For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The word “espoused” in Greek is **ἀρμύζω** (pronounced har-mod'-zo; from G719; to joint, i.e. (figuratively) to woo (reflexively, to betroth):—espouse. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G718**

The “marriage supper of the Lamb” in Revelation 19:9 will be a celebration of the oneness with Christ of all believers.

In verse 8, we read, “the fine linen is the righteousness of saints”. The word translated “righteousness” in the Greek is **δικαίωμα** (pronounced dik-ah'-yo-mah; from G1344; an equitable deed; by implication, a statute or decision:—judgment, justification, ordinance, righteousness. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G1345**

This Greek word is a noun in the nominative plural neuter case. This means that it should be translated “righteous acts”, as in **Revelation 19 (NASB):8** It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

“Righteous acts”, or righteous deeds, are performed by “saints”, which are those who have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ. Unless one has been justified by faith in Jesus Christ, they cannot perform righteous acts or deeds.

The Battle of Armageddon

Revelation 19 (KJV):11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Commentary: This will be the fulfillment of the sixth vial judgment in **Revelation 16 (KJV):12** And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

This was also prophesied in **Revelation 14 (KJV):17** And another angel came out of the

temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

A “furlong” is “a unit of distance equal to 220 yards (about 201 meters)”. **Merriam Webster** So “a thousand and six hundred furlongs” would equal 200 miles.

And Joel prophesied in **Joel 3 (KJV):1** For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

And in **Joel 3 (KJV):9** Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: 10 Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. 11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. 12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. 13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. 16 The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

The word translated “Jehoshaphat” in verse 12 in Hebrew is יהושפט (pronounced yeh-ho-shaw-fawt’); from H3068 and H8199; Jehovah-judged; Jehoshaphat, the name of six Israelites; also of a valley near Jerusalem:—Jehoshaphat. Compare H3146. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, H3092**

This Hebrew word is derived from יהוה (pronounced yeh-ho-vaw’); from H1961; (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jeho-vah, Jewish national name of God:—Jehovah, the Lord. Compare H3050, H3069. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, H3068**

And from שפט (pronounced shaw-fat’); a primitive root; to judge, i.e. pronounce sentence (for or against); by implication, to vindicate or punish; by extenssion, to govern; passively, to litigate (literally or figuratively):—avenge, × that condemn, contend, defend, execute (judgment), (be a) judge(-ment), × needs, plead, reason, rule. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, H8199**

So the “valley of Jehoshaphat” is literally the “valley of Jehovah’s judgment”.

And we read in **Zechariah 12 (KJV):8** In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the Lord before them. 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

This will be the “time of Jacob’s trouble”, as we read in **Jeremiah 30 (KJV):5** For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? 7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

And we read in **Isaiah 66 (KJV):8** Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. 9 Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. 10 Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: 11 That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her

consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. 12 For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. 13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. 14 And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies. 15 For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many.

The outcome of this great battle is never in doubt, as we read again in **Revelation 19 (KJV)**: 10 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

XIV. The Millennium, Revelation 20

Reign of Christ for a Thousand Years

Revelation 20 (KJV): 1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Commentary: In verses 1 to 3 Satan will be bound for a thousand years “that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled”. This would include all of Satan’s fallen angels and demons.

In verses 4 to 6 there are two groups of the righteous who will be raised in the first resurrection. The first group is represented by those who sit on the “thrones”, which are the 24 elders mentioned in Revelation 4:4 and in 5:8-10. These are the ones in Revelation 5:9 who are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb “out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”. They represent all of the raptured saints, which will include all of the Old Testament dead in Christ, as well as all of the New Testament dead in Christ, and those who will be alive and be changed at the rapture. The second group in the first resurrection are “the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands” in Revelation 20, verse 4. This would include all of the saints who were alive and died during the tribulation week. All of these will live and reign “with Christ a thousand years”.

There will also be some righteous and some unrighteous who will still be alive at the end of the tribulation week. These must go through the judgment of the nations in **Matthew 25 (KJV)**: 31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And

he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

The sheep on the right hand will be granted entrance into the millennial kingdom. Treating Christ's brethren, the Jews, with mercy in verses 35 and 36, will be the basis for their entrance into the millennial kingdom. This did not mean that they were saved, but only granted entrance into the millennial kingdom. Those on the left hand, the goats, who did not treat Christ's brethren, the Jews, with mercy shall not be allowed entrance into the millennial kingdom. Their time is up. They will "go away into everlasting punishment".

Because the sheep nations will be allowed entrance into the millennial kingdom does not mean that they were all righteous. Those on earth who are alive when Christ comes will still have a sin nature in their mortal bodies. Remember that Christ will rule with a "rod of iron" during His thousand year reign. But the "righteous" will go "into life eternal".

Now in the millennium, the thousand year reign of Christ, life will be prolonged as it was in Adam's time, as we read in **Genesis 5 (KJV)**:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth: 4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters: 5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

And so we read in **Isaiah 65 (KJV)**:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. 18 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. 19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. 20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

There will still be death during the millennium, but life will be prolonged, and "the child shall die an hundred years old" as in verse 20.

When the new heavens and new earth are created, death will be no more, as we read in **Revelation 21 (KJV)**:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The Lord will rule with a rod of iron during His thousand year reign, as we read in **Psalms 2 (KJV)**:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

And in **Revelation 2 (KJV):27** And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

And in **Revelation 12 (KJV):5** And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

And in **Revelation 19 (KJV):15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

The reign of Christ upon the earth is referred to in Scripture as the Kingdom that God shall set up upon the earth, as we read in **Daniel 2 (KJV):44** And in the days of these kings shall the God, of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

And in **Daniel 7 (KJV):13** I saw in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

And again in **Daniel 7 (KJV):27** And the Kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the Kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

The “kingdoms of this world” will become “the kingdoms of our Lord”, as we read in **Revelation 11 (KJV):15** And the seventh angel sounded and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

And in **Jeremiah 23 (KJV):5** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Then in **Zechariah 14 (KJV):9** And the Lord shall be king over the earth; in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one.

Justice will be mediated swiftly in the millennium. Christ will rule with a rod of iron.

And David will reign over Israel, as we read in **Hosea 3 (KJV):5** Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.

And in **Jeremiah 30 (KJV):7** Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it. 8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

And in **Ezekiel 37 (KJV):24** And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. 25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

“And the Lord shall be king over the earth; in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one”, as in Zechariah 14:9 above.

This is the reason why he is called in Scripture the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, as in **Revelation 19 (KJV):16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

And we read in **Psalms 72 (KJV):7** In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. 8 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. 9 They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall

bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. 11 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

And we read in **Isaiah 2 (KJV):2** And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. 4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

And in **Isaiah 11 (KJV):1** And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

And there will be a change in the animals' nature during this time, as we continue in **Isaiah 11 (KJV):6** The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. 10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

This will be the time of "regeneration" that Jesus spoke of in **Matthew 19 (KJV):28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The saints will reign with Christ on the earth, as we read in **Revelation 5 (KJV):10** And has made us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.

Dr. Albert Grimes explains, "The sense in which we shall reign is brought out in the parable. We shall be in government positions throughout the Kingdom as in Luke 19:17-19, "And he said unto him, well done, thou good servant; because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities."

It is in this Kingdom that we shall be manifest as the Sons of God. In this present world, we are not manifest as Sons of God as stated in 1 John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

When Christ is manifest to the world as King of Kings, then we shall be manifest with him as Colossians 3:4 states, "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

With this manifestation of Sonship, the creation itself shall also be delivered from the bondage of corruption as in Romans 8:19-21, "For the earnest expectation of the creature (or creation) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20 For the creature (creation) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, 21 Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

The curse will be lifted from the earth and it will be restored to its former condition, not to perfection as in Genesis 1:1, but to its reconditioned state as it was when Adam ruled over it. The earth will not be made perfect until the events described in 2 Peter 3:7-13 take place which

will produce the perfect earth of Revelation 21:1.” **Future Events, Book 12, page 6, Dr.**

Albert Grimes

Remember when Adam sinned, the earth was cursed, as we read in **Genesis 3 (KJV):17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

But when the Lord Jesus comes again the earth will be restored to its former reconditioned state before Adam sinned, as we read in **Isaiah 35 (KJV):1** The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. 2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. 3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. 4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

And we read in **Joel 2 (KJV):21** Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. 22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. 23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. 26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Dr. Albert Grimes adds, “Crop failures will only come to those who will not come up to worship in Jerusalem. They will be judged in the sense that no rain will come upon their crops as stated in Zechariah 14:17-19, “And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. 18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.” So the earth will be restored back to conditions that existed before Adam fell. It will be delivered from the bondage of corruption as in Romans 8:21, “Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” **Future Events, Book 12, page 9, Dr. Albert Grimes**

The first resurrection saints will rule on earth with Christ. As resurrection saints we will be like Him, as we read in **1 John 3 (KJV):2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And in **Colossians 3 (KJV):4** When Christ, who is our life, shall appear then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

And in **Philippians 3 (KJV):20** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

But those men and women who made it through the tribulation and through the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46 will still have mortal bodies. There will still be death during the millennium.

The Final Rebellion

Revelation 20 (KJV):7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Commentary: In verse 7, at the end of the thousand years, “Satan will be loosed out of his prison”, and he will again “go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle”, as in verse 8. But in verse 9, “fire” will come “down from God out of heaven”, and devour them.

So we see that the nations were not glorified at the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46. They were simply granted entrance into the millennial kingdom when Christ shall reign for a thousand years. The nations will still be in possession of mortal bodies, and therefore have a sinful nature in their flesh.

In verse 10, “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever”.

The words “for ever and ever” are a translation of the Greek words below:

εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων
ace toos ay-ownas tone ayo-known
unto the ages of the ages

There will be no end of their torment in the “lake of fire”, as Jesus taught in **Mark 9 (KJV):**43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

The words “never shall be quenched” in verse 43 in the Greek are a translation of the Greek word ἄσβεστος (pronounced as'-bes-tos); from G1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of G4570; not extinguished, i.e. (by implication) perpetual:—not to be quenched, unquenchable. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G762**

And this Greek word is derived from the Hebrew letter Alpha, **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G1** (meaning “not” when at the beginning of a word), and from σβέννυμι (pronounced sben'-noo-mee); a prolonged form of an apparently primary verb; to extinguish (literally or figuratively):—go out, quench. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G4570**

And in verse 44, the words “not quenched” are a translation of two Greek words. The first is οὐ (pronounced oo; a primary word; the absolute negative (compare G3361) adverb; no or not:—+long, nay, neither, never, no (X man), none, (can-)not, + nothing, + special, un(-worthy), when, + without, + yet but. See also G3364, G3372. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G3756**

And the second is σβέννυμι (pronounced sben'-noo-mee); a prolonged form of an apparently primary verb; to extinguish (literally or figuratively):—go out, quench. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G4570**

The fire of hell will not go out or be quenched.

In the millennium, the Kingdom Age, there will still be death. Death for the righteous who have not been glorified will be eliminated after the millennium when the first heaven and the first earth pass away, as we read in **Revelation 21 (KJV):1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And in **Revelation 21 (KJV):4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

The saints will be in glorified bodies reigning with Christ during the millennium. But there will be those who survived the tribulation week who will enter the Kingdom Age of the millennium in their mortal bodies. They will need to accept Christ in the Kingdom to ultimately be saved, as in **Psalms 2 (KJV):12** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

If one puts their trust in Christ during the millennium they will be saved. But there will still be those who will not repent and be caught up in this final rebellion.

The White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20 (KJV):11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Commentary: The judgment at the “great white throne” is only for the wicked dead. In Revelation 20:4, “them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands...lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”. But in Revelation 20:5 we read, “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.” The “first resurrection” is of the righteous. The “rest of the dead” will be judged after the millennium at the “great white throne” judgment.

XV. The New Heaven and Earth

Revelation 21 (KJV):1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. **5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. **6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. **7** He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. **8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Commentary: God’s promises to overcomers:

- 1.) a new heaven and a new earth**
- 2.) a new Jerusalem**

- 3.) the tabernacle of God will be with men, and he will dwell with them
- 4.) God shall wipe away all tears
- 5.) no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain
- 6.) all things new
- 7.) He that overcometh shall inherit all things
- 8.) I will be his God, and he shall be my son

And John tells us who the overcomers are in **1 John 5 (KJV):4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

And we read in **1 John 5 (KJV):11** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

And Peter wrote about the change to come in the heavens and the earth in **2 Peter 3 (KJV):7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

The New Jerusalem

Revelation 21 (KJV):9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to

shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. 24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Commentary: In verse 9 we read, “Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.” In verse 10, the angel showed John “that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God”. In verse 11, it had “the glory of God”. In verse 12, it “had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel”. And in verse 14, “the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb”.

In verse 16 we read, “And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.” So the city is a cube. A “furlong” is “a unit of distance equal to 220 yards (about 201 meters)”. **Merriam Webster**

So “twelve thousand furlongs” would equal 1500 miles. The city will be a cube 1500 miles high, 1500 miles wide, and 1500 miles long.

Now in verse 9 we read again, “Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.” The Scripture doesn't mention 2 wives, but one “wife”, which is “that great city, the holy Jerusalem”, and the twelve gates with the names of the “twelve tribes of the children of Israel”, and the twelve foundations with “the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb”. All the saints will be united to the Lord in a spiritual marriage. In verse 27, nothing “that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie” will enter into it. This will be a time of perfect unity and perfect peace.

The Throne of God

Revelation 22 (KJV):1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Commentary: In verse 1, we read of the “water of life”. Jesus mentioned this “water” in **John 4 (KJV):**14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

In verse 2 we read of the “tree of life” which was “on either side of the river”. And this was mentioned in **Genesis 2 (KJV):**9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

But after Adam sinned, God placed a guard on the tree of life, as we read in **Genesis 3 (KJV):**22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

But when the Lord creates a new heaven and a new earth, there will be no guard at the tree of life.

In verse 3 we read, “there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:” Then in verse 4 we read, “And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.” Then in verse 5, “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

The words “for ever and ever” in the Greek are literally the following:

εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων
unto the ages of the ages

The Greek language has no word for eternal, but by the context here we see that it is correctly translated “for ever and ever”. The saints shall reign for eternity with the Lord.

The Prophecy of this Book

Revelation 22 (KJV):6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. 8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. 10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

In verse 6, “the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.” An angel is speaking to John.

But in verse 7, “Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” The Lord Jesus is speaking through the angel.

In verse 8 we read, “And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.”

John is in awe of all that he saw and heard, and he reacts and falls down at the feet of the angel to worship. The angel does not condemn John for the sin of idolatry, but warns him and us in verse 9, “Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.”

In verses 10 and 11 the angel told John, “10 Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

The prophecy in the book of Revelation was as important to be read then, just as it is as important for us to read it now.

In verses 12 to 19, Jesus is speaking, “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”.

That these are the words of Jesus is revealed in verse 16, “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”

In verses 18 and 19, there is a final warning. In verse 19, we read about “the words of the book of this prophecy”. The Lord Jesus was speaking through the angel. The angel was God’s mouth piece.

And let us remember John’s words in verse 14, “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

And we read in **1 John 5 (KJV):3** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

And finally we read in **Psalms 119 (KJB):32** I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

It is His commandment in verse 19 that we don’t “take away from the words of the book of this prophecy”. We must rightly divide the word of God, as we read in **2 Timothy 2 (KJV):15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The words “rightly dividing” are a translation of the Greek word **ὀρθοτομέω** (pronounced or-thot-om-eh'-o); from a compound of G3717 and the base of G5114, to make a straight cut, i.e. (figuratively) to dissect (expound) correctly (the divine message):—rightly divide. **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, G3718**

Wuest’s **Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Volume II**, says, ““Rightly Dividing” is orthotomeo, from temno, “to cut”, and orthos, “straight,” the compound verb meaning “to cut straight.” Moulton and Milligan suggest that it might be a metaphor derived from the stone mason’s art of cutting stones fair and straight to fit into their places in a building.” **Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Volume II, The Pastoral Epistles in the Greek New Testament, page 135, by Kenneth S. Wuest.**

If we were laying the foundation of a tall building, it would be extremely important to lay a good foundation. In laying a foundation from the word of God we must, “Study” to show ourselves “approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed”. And when we are done, He will say to us as in **Matthew 25 (KJV):21** His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

In studying the book of Revelation, we must include the book of Daniel, for the prophecies in Daniel lay a foundation for understanding the book of Revelation. All Scripture is profitable for doctrine, that is, for Biblical truth, as in **2 Timothy 3 (KJV):16** All scripture is

given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The word “doctrine” in verse 16 in the Greek is **διδασκαλία** (pronounced did-as-kal-ee'-ah); from G1320; instruction (the function or the information):—doctrine, learning, teaching.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, G1319

And this Greek word is derived from **διδάσκαλος** (pronounced did-as'-kal-os); from G1321; an instructor (genitive case or specially):—doctor, master, teacher. **Strong's**

Exhaustive Concordance, G1320

Jesus taught in **John 17 (KJV):**17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

The teaching of Scripture is Biblical truth. Since “all Scripture” is “profitable for doctrine”, that is teaching, we must include all of it in our teaching so that we maintain the context throughout the Scripture. We don't make up our own interpretation of the symbols in the Bible. We look for the interpretation in the Bible itself, just as we did with the “woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars” in Revelation 12:1. The interpretation of the symbols is found in Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:9-10. The woman in Revelation 12:1 is Israel.

Let us make it a rule that when we study the Scripture we look for approval from God so that we are not ashamed when He comes.